Fake currency racket

3717. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item, captioned "IT sleuths unearth currency racket" which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated the 23rd March, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to control the problem of currency smuggling racket as highlighted in the news-item?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Bureau of Investigation intercepted two parcels on 9th June, 2001 containing US $ 25000 being sent by a person from Delhi to Hongkong by Speed Post. Cash of Rs. 1.14 Crore was also found from the premises of concerned persons. Having come to know this, Income Tax Department conducted searches at premises of 5 beneficiaries of the racket in Delhi and seized cash of Rs. 29.40 lakhs and stock of Rs. 45.60 lakhs. Investigation is in progress to find out exact *modus operandi*.

(c) Appropriate action as per law are taken as and when such instances are detected.

Promotion of Additional Commissioners

3718. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 49 officers have been promoted as Commissioners *vide* order of 28th January, 2002 and designated as officers of special duty without assigning any work;

(b) if so, the circumstances which prompted to issue such an order to pay heavy salaries without getting any work done by these 49 officers;